



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 104

February Session, 2002

Substitute Senate Bill No. 394

Senate, March 21, 2002

The Committee on Public Safety reported through SEN. PENN of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REQUIRING PROPANE GAS CONTAINERS TO BE
EQUIPPED WITH AN OVERFILLING PREVENTION DEVICE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-335a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "propane gas container" means a
4 refillable tank or cylinder containing propane gas which has a cylinder
5 valve attached thereto, but does not include a fuel tank which is a
6 component part of a vehicle; "container valve plug" means a fully
7 threaded plug made of substantial material fitted with a large hexagon
8 nut or hand wheel for tightening which is designed to prevent the flow
9 of gas if the container valve is opened and to release trapped pressure
10 except when fully inserted in the container; [and] "approved quick
11 closing coupling" means a valve assembly provided with a quick
12 coupling device which shuts off the flow of propane gas when not
13 connected for use; "overfilling prevention device" means a safety

14 device designed to provide an automatic means to prevent the filling
15 of a propane gas container in excess of the maximum permitted filling
16 limit; and "fixed maximum liquid level gauge" means a liquid level
17 gauge that has a positive shutoff valve and is designed to indicate the
18 liquid level at which the propane gas container is filled to its
19 maximum permitted filling limit.

20 (b) (1) No propane gas filling facility may release a propane gas
21 container to a customer for transportation in any enclosed vehicle
22 unless a fitted container valve plug is fully inserted in the container or
23 the container has an approved quick closing coupling. No person may
24 [(1)] (A) transport a propane gas container in any enclosed vehicle
25 unless a fitted container valve plug is fully inserted in the container, or
26 the container has an approved quick closing coupling, and such
27 container is transported in an upright position and secured to prevent
28 movement, [(2)] (B) leave a propane gas container unattended in any
29 vehicle or in an area accessible to the public unless a fitted container
30 valve plug is fully inserted in the container or the container has an
31 approved quick closing coupling, or [(3)] (C) remove a container valve
32 plug from a propane gas container except to fill the container or
33 connect such container for use. (2) On and after April 1, 2002, no
34 propane gas filling or cylinder exchange facility may fill or resell any
35 propane gas container with a capacity of four to forty pounds,
36 inclusive, unless the container is equipped with an overfilling
37 prevention device and a fixed maximum liquid level gauge. The
38 provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any propane gas
39 container used in any forklift powered by propane gas or for industrial
40 welding and cutting gases.

41 (c) Any person who, by himself or by his employee or agent, or as
42 the employee or agent of another, violates or fails to comply with any
43 provision of this section, shall, upon a first conviction, be fined not
44 more than five hundred dollars. Upon any subsequent conviction, any
45 such person shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more
46 than one thousand dollars. If death or injury results from any such
47 violation, such person shall be fined not more than ten thousand

48 dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill prohibits the filling of certain propane gas containers if they are not equipped with overfilling prevention devices. While there would be costs to consumers to replace containers without such devices, the bill is not anticipated to result in any additional costs to the state or municipalities.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 394

AN ACT REQUIRING PROPANE GAS CONTAINERS TO BE EQUIPPED WITH AN OVERFILLING PREVENTION DEVICE**SUMMARY:**

Starting April 1, 2002, this bill prohibits propane gas filling and cylinder exchange facilities from filling or reselling propane gas containers with a capacity of four to 40 pounds, unless the container is equipped with an overfilling prevention device and a fixed maximum liquid level gauge. The bill defines "overfilling prevention device" as an automatic safety device designed to prevent overfilling. A "fixed maximum liquid level gauge" is a liquid gauge with a positive shutoff valve and is designed to show when the amount of gas in the container is at the permitted maximum.

The bill exempts propane gas containers used (1) in forklifts powered by propane gas or (2) for industrial welding and cutting gases.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0